**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A diagnostic kit to aid in the detection of anti-rubella IgM antibodies, comprising:
a first vessel containing rubella antigens comprising rubella E1 glycoprotein and rubella E2 glycoprotein and substantially free of rubella capsid protein;
wherein the E1 and E2 glycoproteins are purified from rubella virus and
a second vessel containing an indicator reagent that specifically complexes with an anti-rubella IgM antibody.

2. The diagnostic kit of claim 1, further comprising a test sample diluent containing urea.

3. The diagnostic kit of claim 2, wherein the test sample diluent comprises between about 2 M urea and about 4 M urea.

4. The diagnostic kit of claim 2, wherein the test sample diluent comprises about 3 M urea.

5. The diagnostic kit of claim 1, further comprising a wash buffer comprising urea.

6. The diagnostic kit of claim 5, wherein the wash buffer comprises between about 2 M urea and about 4 M urea.

7. The diagnostic kit of claim 1, wherein the rubella antigens are immobilized on a solid support.

8. The diagnostic kit of claim 7, wherein the solid support is a membrane, filter, piece of plastic, piece of glass, or bead.

9. The diagnostic kit of claim 7, wherein the solid support is polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polyamide, polycarbonate, polyether, polymethyl methacrylate, nitrocellulose, polyvinylidene difluoride, agarose, metal, or nylon.

10. The diagnostic kit of claim 1, wherein the indicator reagent is conjugated to a detectable label.

11. The diagnostic kit of claim 1, wherein the indicator reagent is conjugated to a protein, enzyme, radioisotope, nucleic acid segment, or fluorochrome.

12. The diagnostic kit of claim 11, wherein the enzyme is horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, or β-galactosidase.

13. The diagnostic kit of claim 11, wherein the enzyme catalyzes the conversion of a non-chemiluminescent reagent into a chemiluminescent product.

14. The diagnostic kit of claim 11, wherein the enzyme catalyzes the conversion of a non-colorimetric reagent to a colorimetric product.